

Read Colossians 4:7 – 18:

Conclusion:

How does Paul describe his various fellow workers?

How does he want the Colossians to relate to these people?

Paul most likely used a scribe to write his letters as he dictated them. Why do you think Paul concludes his letter by saying he writes the greeting in his own hand? How does this reflect his attitude toward the Colossian Christians?

Thinking over the six studies what are some of the important lessons you have gleaned?

How do you now plan to put these into practice?

Groups week beginning 13th March 2023

Study 6: Living for God

Readings: Colossians 3:18 – 4:18
Ephesians 5:21 – 6:9

How easy do you find it to submit to God, to another person?

What does submission say about our attitude to other people, to ourselves?

Read Colossians 3:18 – 4:1, Ephesians 5:21 – 6:9:

Submission and responsibility:

In Ephesians 5:21 why are we exhorted to submit to one another? How would this affect relationships between the people of God? How does this tie in with Jesus' example?

In both letters there are three examples of people who demonstrate this submission. Why any of these would be tempted not to submit? What are the reasons given for submission?

What responsibility is placed on husbands? Why do you think Paul wrote about these responsibilities?

What responsibilities are there on Fathers? What behaviour did Paul have in mind when he wrote this?

What responsibilities are placed on a 'master'?

In each case there is a weighty responsibility placed on those in a position of power. How should we treat people who are vulnerable?

Why is it important for Christians to be willing to submit?

Read Colossians 4:1 – 6:

Further instructions:

As Paul concludes his letter he exhorts his readers to devote themselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. How does this draw us back to how Paul started the letter?

How easy or difficult is it for you to put into practice what Paul asks? How can we help one another in this task?

What does Paul ask the Colossians to pray for?

How can we learn from this as we pray for others active in ministry?

Why does Paul encourage us to be wise with outsiders? What opportunities did Paul have in mind in v5?

How can our conversations be full of grace? Seasoned with salt?

What questions does Paul expect us to be answering in v6? How can you be prepared to answer those questions?